



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services Looks to Address Significant Gap in Labour Market Information for First Nation Communities

Thunder Bay, ON, March 1, 2022- The continued lack of workforce information available about First Nation communities has triggered a survey by Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS). The organization is collecting information through its **Labour Market Information (LMI) Survey** to help identify workforce gaps and needs, and to better match North Superior First Nation people with the right training and jobs.

“Gaps in Indigenous education and skills training presents both a labour and business problem, with negative impacts on Indigenous individuals, businesses and overall economic growth. The lack of information is very concerning and better data is needed to address the problem,” says Sharon Ostberg, AETS President. “Understanding labour market information is essential to identifying industry skills gaps and developing solutions. This LMI survey potentially holds the door open for new Indigenous employees and employers to realize their talent and potential.”

The AETS LMI Survey is currently open to on and off-reserve members of North Superior First Nations which includes Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon), Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River), Biiinjiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay), Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point), Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay), Michipicoten First Nation, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg (Pic Mobert), Pays Plat First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band). Participants must be 15 years or older and will be provided with a financial incentive for completing the survey. Approval has been granted by each of the nine participating First Nations, for the purpose of collecting data that reflects a community's overall available workforce including knowledge, skills and abilities.

“Indigenous unemployment rates continue to be higher than provincial averages, and speaks to the existence of barriers preventing the Indigenous labour force from accessing available job opportunities,” says Melissa Scholz, AETS Human Resources Project Co-ordinator for the Labour Market Information & Skills Inventory Project. “The LMI project explores employment related data from working age Indigenous citizens. Once collected, AETS will be able to analyze the data with each community and use it to improve education to training to employment related programs and services that address the labour market needs.”



The AETS LMI survey will also provide important information and insights that will equally benefit employers and industry groups working in the region, providing details on effective labour strategies for Indigenous people.

Those interested in participating in the survey can visit www.aets.org/LMI or contact AETS to complete the survey in person at one of our offices located at the Waverly or Brodie St. Library, by calling (807) 346-0307. The annual AETS LMI survey closes on March 31, 2022.

“This is an opportunity to help people thrive and succeed in a rapidly developing economy by helping citizens find meaningful, demand-driven employment, while investing in First Nations communities and youth,” says John DeGiacomo, AETS Executive Director.

-30-

Media Contact:

Amanda Bay
Firedog Communications
T- (807) 767-4443 Ext 22
E- amanda@firedogpr.com